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F. C. I. News Letter



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The **FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION**

United States Department of Agriculture

Washington, D. C.

December 13

1938

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MERITS OF CROP INSURANCE

EXPLAINED TO FARM BUREAU

Speaking before the convention of the National Farm Bureau at New Orleans yesterday, Acting Manager Leroy K. Smith recalled that the Farm Bureau back in 1923 went on record as favoring a crop insurance program and how it has since that date been active in promoting this form of protection for farmers. He also pointed out that the cooperation of the Bureau and other farm organizations has been of material assistance in bringing the crop insurance program before wheat growers since Congress passed necessary legislation last February.

"In talking about crop insurance to this organization I feel that I am talking to a group that is vitally interested in the success of our current program, both because of the real benefits we believe it will bring to wheat growers and because it is a pioneering program and that by its results the whole idea of crop insurance will be measured. So, we feel that we are being held responsible not only for the success of the wheat crop insurance program, but also upon us rests the responsibility of showing whether or not these principles of insurance can be extended to other important crops.

"The plan is comparatively simple, and in its simplicity avoids many of the dangers that have heretofore plagued all attempts to insure growing crops. We feel highly gratified that in this, its first year, crop insurance has been so widely received that the plan will have a thorough trial. We know that many commercial ventures would be more than pleased if in their first year they succeeded in introducing a radically new type of insurance to as many customers.

"While the principle of calculating premiums in terms of wheat has been readily accepted on the part of the growers, most of them have preferred to make their payments in cash rather than in kind. I would class this as a pleasant surprise because it enables us to simplify the administration of the program and we can readily transfer the cash payments into wheat in reserve.

"We feel that the farmer who guarantees his yield through crop insurance has not only improved his own economic stability but also has contributed toward the stability of the community in which he lives.

"We are making a study of new data that are now becoming available. It will take into consideration a longer base period which will tend to bring the cost of crop insurance more closely in line with the long-time average risks of growing wheat in the Great Plains. At the same time we are making every effort to bring to the attention of lending agencies the benefits that may be derived

from adequate credit for crop insurance, both from the strictly business standpoint, and for the general welfare of their respective communities.

"New as it is, we have discovered a number of useful by-products in the crop insurance program which I will mention briefly. One of these is that crop insurance may prove to be a valuable stabilizer of good farming systems. We have a good example of this in eastern Kansas where in the past few years farmers who normally have included corn in their system of farming have as a result of drought turned in a large measure to wheat growing, thus severely dislocating the wheat industry by adding to the current surplus. At the same time, these farmers who turned to wheat -- in self protection of course because corn would not grow in these years -- have come up against a severe economic problem. They have indebted themselves to buy wheat machinery and now with wheat at a low level, in many instances are finding it difficult to meet their obligations. Had a crop insurance program for corn been in effect during these years, it is highly probable that many of these producers would have continued with their established system of farming since their corn yields would have been assured to them.

"Through crop insurance many farmers who have lost title to their land because of past crop failures or other misfortunes, may now be able to become landowners again and further, crop insurance makes possible a more equitable leasing arrangement for tenants.

"When the present Crop Insurance Act was passed by Congress, it was clearly implied that insurance would be tried out with wheat as the "guinea pig." We do not know what Congress may do in the future, but there is reason to believe that legislation may be introduced to include other crops, principally cotton and corn, in the very near future . . . Both of these crops are far more complicated than wheat. Both involve much more of the human element than does wheat because while the making of a wheat crop ends with its seeding, cotton and corn must be carefully cultivated if profitable yields are to be maintained."

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63,541 INSURANCE POLICIES

ISSUED THROUGH DECEMBER 2

Special reports received from the Kansas City, Minneapolis, and Washington branch offices show that the Corporation has actually issued 63,541 wheat crop insurance policies through December 2. On that date, with premium payments still coming in, a total of 103,643 premiums had been received. The wheat reserve of the Corporation passed the 3-million bushel mark as of December 6.

Complete figures on progress through December 2 show that 235,190 applications have been received in the three branch offices; premium notices issued, 219,949; premiums received, 103,643; policies issued, 63,541. The complete figures show that activity has speeded up in the spring wheat area. North Dakota with 11,288 applications received leads other states in this respect under the Minneapolis Branch. Minnesota leads other states in the number of premium notices issued with 7,559, closely followed by North and South Dakota with 7,175 and 7,131, respectively. Wisconsin shows the highest percentage of premiums paid in the spring wheat area with 56 percent.

The wheat reserve on December 6 stood at 3,105,284 bushels. Of this amount 2,820,833 bushels represented purchases by the Kansas City office; 274,451 for Minneapolis, and 10,000 bushels for the Washington Branch. The following table gives a complete picture of progress through December 2.

COMBINED REPORT OF BRANCH OFFICES

Through Dec. 2, 1938

STATE	Applica- tions Received	Premium Notices Issued	Premiums Received	Premiums Received	Policies Issued
				Percent	
<u>WASHINGTON BR.</u>					
Delaware	170	158	67	42.4	61
Maryland	1,531	1,221	507	41.5	419
New York	696	581	254	43.7	90
Pennsylvania	3,483	1,983	480	24.2	215
Virginia	1,357	1,109	263	23.7	134
West Virginia	2	2	1	50.0	1
TOTAL	7,257	5,054	1,556	30.9	926
<u>KANSAS CITY BR.</u>					
Ohio	25,272	24,976	10,262	41.0	6,722
Indiana	17,984	17,387	10,659	61.3	6,737
Illinois	21,866	21,356	11,891	55.6	8,104
Michigan	9,723	9,363	4,800	51.2	2,321
Iowa	6,798	6,634	4,586	69.1	2,927
Missouri	31,662	31,283	13,553	49.7	10,308
Nebraska	29,099	28,447	12,430	43.6	5,800
Kansas	26,698	25,393	13,903	54.7	9,232
Oklahoma	13,246	13,096	8,294	63.3	4,979
Texas	6,040	5,901	3,642	61.7	1,894
Idaho	604	566	101	17.8	37
Wyoming	693	649	177	27.2	88
Colorado	4,041	3,530	559	15.8	255
New Mexico	408	402	101	25.1	76
Utah	472	452	227	50.2	88
California	118	62	24	38.7	1
TOTAL	194,724	189,497	97,209	51.2	59,569
<u>MINNEAPOLIS BR.</u>					
Wisconsin	228	223	125	56.0	52
Minnesota	9,055	7,559	2,344	31.0	1,644
North Dakota	11,288	7,175	420	5.8	159
South Dakota	8,295	7,131	833	11.7	513
Montana	2,527	1,700	577	33.9	303
Idaho	988	898	394	43.9	280
Washington	518	406	99	24.4	44
Oregon	310	206	86	42.7	51
TOTAL	33,209	25,398	4,878	19.2	3,046
WASHINGTON TOTAL	7,257	5,054	1,556	30.9	926
KANSAS CITY "	194,724	189,497	97,209	51.2	59,569
MINNEAPOLIS "	33,209	25,398	4,878	19.2	3,046
COMBINED TOTAL	235,190	219,949	1 3,643	47.1	63,541

FCIC FIELD OFFICIALS

GATHER IN WASHINGTON

All was relatively quiet last week on the "Southern Front" of the first floor of the sixth wing of the South Agriculture Building. In other words, nearly all of the managerial force of the Corporation virtually moved to Room 3036 of the South Building where branch managers, all state supervisors, and other keymen of the Corporation assembled to get their signals lined up with respect to adjustments on 1939 crop losses and problems in connection with formulating regulations and procedure for 1940.

The conference opened Monday morning with a talk by Acting Manager Leroy Smith in which he outlined the problems at hand and possible means of solution. Adjustment policy and procedure were discussed by Paul Leaming, Tom Allington, and Clarence Little, followed by a group discussion of pertinent problems. Committees were appointed to attempt to draw conclusions upon controversial phases of the adjustment policy. These committees made a report of their findings Tuesday morning, following a further discussion on adjustments. A report of the Committee on Agricultural Adjustment Administration participation was heard.

Regional groups met Wednesday morning to discuss local problems in various rooms of the South Building, followed by group meetings with the regional director of each division of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. Milton S. Eisenhower, coordinator and director of information for the Department of Agriculture, spoke to the group on Wednesday afternoon, pointing out the importance of coordination among all agencies of the Department as well as with other departments of the Government. The Secretary of Agriculture entered the conference room at three o'clock and gave a 30-minute informal talk on crop insurance problems and principles. The balance of the afternoon was devoted to a discussion of multiple-farm problems and procedure by Ollie Ditto; elevator interests as crop insurance salesmen by Vance Rucker, and credit problems by Emil Placek, banker of Wahoo, Nebr.

Thursday the group heard the report of the Committee on Regulations and County Procedure as relating to policy. Regulations, definitions, and eligibility were discussed by Homer J. Henney. A general discussion of the 1940 application followed. The proposed 1940 actuarial basis, and county work were presented by William Rowe and E. R. Luther, respectively.

A discussion of county committee work on determining coverage and premium was carried on Friday forenoon by Messrs. Rowe and Luther. Chester Hand, Guy Smith, and Carl Wright took up various phases of writing applications and collecting premiums. The Committee on Regulations and County Procedure as relating to field activity made its report at this time which was followed by further discussion by Messrs. Hand, Smith, and Wright on applications and premium collections.

Homer J. Henney discussed generally field activity on Saturday morning. A report was heard from the Committee on Public Relations, followed by a general discussion of this subject by John A. Bird, E. L. Rhoades, and John Norton.

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Premium collections have been satisfactory so far in Idaho, State Supervisor John P. Mix, reports. Plans are under way to start a drive that he hopes will bring in payments on a large percentage of premium notices.

PROPER EVIDENCE REQUIRED

TO VALIDATE LATE PAYMENTS Eighty-four premium payments have been returned to the county crop insurance offices by the KC Branch Office. These were payments which appeared to have been made after the deadline set for the States from which the payments came.

"There are circumstances, of course," explained Branch Manager W. A. Talbot, "under which these late payments could be legitimate and entitle the payee to the insurance policy he seeks. In fact a few of the 84 already have come back to Kansas City accompanied by the proper evidence from the county crop insurance supervisor, to show that the delay in payment was not the fault of the applicant. On receipt of such evidence, the payment is accepted, audited and the necessary record made for writing the policy.

In a very small percentage of cases, Mr. Talbot states, premium notices have been delayed, from a few days to even a few months, due to some of the several possible causes. If the applicant has done his part he certainly is not going to be penalized by refusal to accept the payment necessary to put his policy in force. But before this office can accept such late payment it must have the facts to show that this office, some State or county office, or the necessities of legal procedure, are responsible, rather than any neglect or delay on the part of the applicant.

"Returned payments up to December 17," Mr. Talbot concluded, "amounted to \$1,376. They have gone back to county offices in 11 different states from which we received them. These county offices may yet produce the evidence to show that all these delayed payments are valid, but we are required to have such evidence before we can issue the policies."

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SPACE IN 57 WAREHOUSES

SECURED FOR FCI RESERVE Space in 57 bonded warehouses has been contracted by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation for storing its reserve of winter wheat, Leroy K. Smith, acting manager, announced recently. These 57 warehouses give the Corporation storage space in ten states. The warehouses contracted have a total capacity of approximately 44 million bushels, but space for only about 8 million bushels has been contracted.

Additional contracts will be negotiated for storage space in other warehouses strategically located with reference to the spring wheat crops which are, or will be, insured. In these storage facilities a reserve will be kept representing all premium payments received by the Corporation.

"These storage facilities," Mr. Smith pointed out, "allow the Corporation to keep its insurance reserve for the winter wheat states reasonably near to the producing areas where the wheat will have to be paid out."

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One of the first North Dakotans to make a deposit on his 1940 wheat crop insurance was A. S. Marshall, chairman of the State Agricultural Conservation Committee.

EVERY COUNTY IN OHIO MAY

HAVE WHEAT CROP INSURANCE

That Ohio is the first State in the Union in which premiums have been received from every county, was shown by an analysis prepared by the Statistical Unit of the Washington Office. Policies have been issued in all but one of these counties, according to the latest report from the Kansas City Branch Office. Policies have been issued in all but four counties in both Kansas and Missouri. Since premium notices have been issued in all of the Kansas counties, and premium payments received from all but one, further information from the Kansas City Branch Office will probably indicate Kansas to be the second State in which all counties have sent in premiums.

Missouri, Indiana, and Illinois are close to the top of the list of states with regard to the percentages of wheat-growing counties participating in the crop insurance program. Premiums have been received from all but three Missouri counties, four Indiana counties, and seven counties in Illinois.

From the standpoint of the actual number of counties in each state from which premium payments have been received, the figures are slightly different. Missouri leads the other states with 111 counties although insurance has not been granted in all counties of that State. Kansas is second, with 104 counties. Some of the higher states are Illinois, 94; Indiana, 88; Ohio, 88; Nebraska, 79; Texas, 68; South Dakota, 62; Minnesota, 59, and Iowa, 53.

It is pointed out, however, that the above data do not necessarily indicate the comparative degree of cooperation with respect to other states, since non-wheat-growing counties are found in a number of the cooperating states.

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NEARLY 100,000 POLICIES

IN SIGHT FOR KC BRANCH

The 100,000 policy mark is almost in sight for the Kansas City Branch alone, as figures were announced at the close of November. At that time, 96,875 premium payments had been received from the winter wheat territory.

No closing date for premium payments had yet been set for California, Arizona, Nevada, and parts of Idaho and Wyoming. From other winter wheat states, premium payments still are being received on premium notices delayed because of changes in acreages covered; legal hitches connected with estate settlements, trusteeships, powers of attorney; recomputations due to errors in field measurements, or in clerical work.

On November 30, payments, mostly in such cases, numbered 367, from 14 states, and totaled \$6,740. Half of this total came from Kansas, which still led in the amount of premium payments, with a total of \$325,867 through November 30. For amount of premium payments, Nebraska, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Illinois followed in the order given. Missouri still led in number of premiums paid, with 15,463 through November 30. Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio followed in the order given.

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THARP OF PROTECTION, KANS.,

GOT FIRST FCI PROTECTION

E. G. Tharp, recently reelected to the Board of Directors of the Wichita Farm Credit Administration, is one of the hundreds of leading farmers who has protected his 1939 wheat with crop insurance. He was the first to apply at the crop insurance office in Protection, Kans.

Mr. Tharp, a pioneer farmer in Comanche County, Kans., has helped in every sound service offered to the farmers of his region - and has farmed all the time. He is a charter member of the local elevator cooperative, a charter member of the Regional Grain Marketing Cooperative, and a director in the National Wholesale Cooperative, from which his Local buys supplies. He is a member of both of the local financing cooperatives which originate business for the Farm Credit Administration, of which he is a director.

When crop insurance came along, Mr. Tharp investigated it, as he does every service offered. What he concluded is indicated by the fact that more than 2 months ago he had paid his premium for a policy on his 522 acres of wheat near Protection - a policy insuring him 5,755 bushels production next harvest. He paid the cash equivalent of 1 bushel 3 pecks of wheat an acre for this protection.

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RARE OPPORTUNITY OFFERED

BY FCIC, SAYS MISSOURIAN

Under the heading - "Let's Go Pioneering" - William L. Hord of Henrietta, Mo., writes to the Richmond Missourian of November 28 as follows:

"Seldom have two as rare opportunities come to a county as to Ray County in the last month. First, the Federal Wheat Crop Insurance, which the writer sincerely hopes has been snagged permanently. This is a policy of the sort that was only contemplated once before in our history. That was back in 1903 by the great Lloyds of England who finally considered the odds so great that they withdrew their fieldmen without actually writing any policies.

"The farmers who are receiving these Federal policies now are really trail blazers and helping a movement along that may easily spread to other branches of agriculture."

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HALL HELPS OUT AT KC BRANCH

George Hall, assistant field officer in charge of Crop Insurance in Colorado, was a recent visitor in Kansas City. His visit was caused by the hospitalization of his father who, well past 70 years of age, has actively been serving as deputy sheriff of Clay County, Mo. During his several days in Kansas City, Mr. Hall greatly assisted the branch office in clearing a number of applications from Colorado which formerly were suspended.

N.W. BANKING HEADS URGED

TO EASE CREDIT BARRIERS

Steps were taken this week to ease the crop insurance credit situation in the spring wheat states where unit banks of leading northwest banking houses predominate. Despite the assignment features of crop insurance policies many banks in Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Montana were generally reluctant or unable to accept such assigned policies for loans before getting approval of their home office of the First Bank Stock Corporation and the Northwest Bancorporation.

Both of these houses have numerous member units in the Northwest States. O. J. Ditto, special field assistant to J. H. Fraser, Branch Office Manager in Minneapolis, conferred with officials of the Bancorporation last week. He was assured that this house would formulate a policy on crop insurance credit soon, which may speed action in the field on crop insurance assignments.

This problem was brought to Mr. Fraser's attention by Leo J. McManus, state supervisor for South Dakota. Mr. McManus also pointed out that premium payments probably will be increased in volume after January 1, when the soil conservation benefit payments become assignable on spring wheat plantings.

"I believe that then we can induce quite a number of our bankers to extend credit to a much broader field than they now are," he said, "but in order to do this, it is going to take personal contacts by someone thoroughly instructed in both types of assignments, namely the assignment under the ACP and the assignment under the FCIC."

Mr. Fraser suggested that state supervisors in the spring wheat region send him the names of banking concerns having member units in their states if they have experienced the same difficulty as South Dakota in getting local acceptance of assignments.

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OREGON PLANS EDUCATIONAL

MEETINGS BEFORE SOLICITING

Clyde Kiddle, state supervisor for Oregon, says his State will produce a "fair volume" of spring wheat insurance applications. Before the final day for receiving winter wheat applications Oregon transmitted several requests for insurance running from 300 to 600 acres. One of the largest was for 1,080 acres.

"We are prepared," says Mr. Kiddle, "to go into the field and work on spring wheat applications. We intend, however, to hold some more educational meetings and take advantage of all farmer group meetings before doing any personal contact work since nearly all of our spring wheat is seeded during April."

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SOUTH DAKOTA CONCENTRATES

ON CROP RISK COLLECTIONS

South Dakota is relaxing the drive for applications slightly, State Supervisor Leo J. McManus reports, "because we feel that a more thorough study of the possibilities of making collections on those already executed, would be in order at this time rather than continue efforts on applications." Some counties, he added, have been pretty well covered while others in the northern part of the State are just getting a good start.

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Premium collections have been satisfactory so far in Idaho, State Supervisor John P. Mix, reports. Plans are under way to start a drive that he hopes will bring in payments on a large percentage of premium notices.

ONE-THIRD OF PERSONAL

CALLS GET APPLICATIONS Slightly more than one-third of all owners and operators visited personally have signed applications for crop insurance in the spring wheat region, a study of supervisors' reports showed last week.

Wisconsin, principally a dairying State, led other states in the region from the standpoint of percentages with about 75 percent of crop insurance calls developing into applications. Wisconsin, however, has the smallest acreage listed and also the fewest number of persons contacted, 363.

Oregon was lowest with 10 percent of the calls resulting in signed applications. Other state showings were: Minnesota, about 33 percent; Idaho about 50 percent; South Dakota about 33 percent; and Washington and Montana, about 25 percent each.

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APPLICATIONS TOP 50,000

IN SPRING WHEAT AREA DEC. 2 Applications written in the spring wheat region reached a total of 57,253 as of December 2. These requests for insurance are from the eight states constituting the area served by the Minneapolis Branch Office. About 3 million acres of land are represented, the bulk of it in North and South Dakota. Of the total applications written 33,209 have been received by the Minneapolis Branch Office, which office has mailed 25,398 premium notices. Of those applicants receiving notices, slightly more than 10 percent, or 3,046, have paid their premiums and policies have been issued on their 1939 crop.

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SOUTH DAKOTA PAYMENTS

WILL REACH FAIR FIGURE A good percentage of paid up winter wheat policies in South Dakota is expected in that State by State Supervisor Leo J. McManus.

"I do not think that we will reach the percentage that I had hoped, however," he said. "This is chiefly because of lack of finance and, secondly, in one particular area of the State, the winter wheat crop is the most promising it has been for years, and that naturally is going to influence winter wheat growers in some instances to hesitate paying out much money."

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MARKETING SPECIALIST

Earl Cory, marketing specialist for the Minneapolis Branch Office, attended the South Dakota grain dealers meeting at Mitchell, S. Dak., December 7. Mr. Cory spoke on crop insurance, stressing grain handling operations of the FCIC. Albert Hauffee also spoke at the meeting in place of Leo McManus, state crop insurance supervisor, who was called to Washington to meet with other state crop insurance supervisors of the Corporation.

26 PERCENT OF N. D. WHEAT

GOAL LISTED FOR INSURANCE

Twenty-six percent of North Dakota's 1939 wheat acreage allotment already has been listed for crop insurance in the more than 27,000 applications made in that State, State Supervisor N. D. Gorman says.

"Some of the counties show a high percentage of their wheat acreage covered with crop insurance applications," says Mr. Gorman. Pembina County leads with 82 percent of its allotted wheat acreage covered by applications at a cost of .018 cents an acre.

"Pierce County has 75 percent of its allotted acreage covered at a cost of .016 cents an acre, and Ramsey County has 53 percent covered at a cost of .013 cents. Other counties approaching the half-way mark are Dickey, 49 percent; Adams, 38; Slope, 36, and Walsh, 33."

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PREMIUMS MAY HINGE

ON WHEAT PAYMENTS

Premium payments are coming in fairly well in Oregon, State Supervisor Clyde Kiddle reports. "We do have a few farmers who are depending upon wheat allotment payments to pay their crop insurance premiums so we are hoping that the final date for premium payments will not be set so as to conflict with this arrangement."

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LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED

Crop Insurance leaflets were made available to delegates attending the Eastern Oregon Wheat League's meeting at The Dalles December 1, 2, and 3. Clyde Kiddle, state crop insurance supervisor, had planned to attend the meeting, but was called to Washington to meet with other state crop insurance supervisors. The supervisor for Wasco County, however, arranged to attend the convention.

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The cost of crop insurance work in North Dakota to date is .027 cents an acre, State Supervisor N. D. Gorman reports.

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Idaho may write as many as 1,000 spring wheat applications, State Supervisor John P. Mix, reports.

KANSAS CITY SUPPLEMENT

Getting Out a Six-Figure

Job of Freight Schedules One job nearing completion in the Kansas City Branch Office is the supplying of freight rate schedules to the offices of the county crop insurance supervisors and others who need them outside the Branch. Under the direction of Gilbert Bonstetter, assistant to the Branch Manager, the Traffic Unit under I. M. Herndon, the Stenographic Unit under Helen Harrow, and the Property and Supply Unit under D. L. Page, are collaborating on the job. Typewritten copies of freight rate schedules for 19 states (from every station in the State to some basic market) had to be prepared. From these copies the stencils - some 550 pages - had to be cut and carefully proofread. About a half million sheets of mimeograph paper had to be obtained from Washington. Now, all there is left to do is to mimeograph 450,000 sheets of paper and bind the schedules, by states, into about 3,300 books, and see that they are distributed properly.

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KC Branch Athletes

Sponsor Benefit Ball A Benefit Dance to raise funds for FCIC athletic activities was given by the KC Branch on December 3. Proceeds went, chiefly, to equip the FCIC basketball team, which sponsored the dance.

The dance was held at the Roof Garden of the Ambassador Hotel. Among those contributing to the success of the dance, besides the unit heads, were R. Hughes, Carl Aleshi, and E. E. Rule of Accounting; Sidney Rappaport and Robert Kent of Audit; Paul Maxwell and Gene Jones of Insurance; Milton Morales and Howard Williams of Mail and Files, and Fred Vaughn and Dean Bernitz of Statistics.

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Even Absentee Ballots

Will Not Settle Score The football team from Mail and Files challenged a team from Audit for the Kansas City Branch Office championship. The game was played Sunday, October 20. The score is not yet determined.

Several "crucial" plays that resulted in scores were protested by the referee. After talking it over "quietly" (the rumor that blackjacks were used is false) the referee showed his utter impartiality by changing his decision.

All wagers are in "suspension" awaiting judicial review. Mail and Files claims the game 8-6 -- but Audit takes exception and counter-claims a 12-6 win. Both teams celebrated their victory. Everybody is happy. Nobody is satisfied.

Miss Onie Ellison was transferred from the Kansas City Branch Office to the Kansas State office to the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation at Manhattan on November 19. The Misses Ferril Orr and Olive Deleplaine were transferred to Manhattan on November 23.

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Miss Florence J. Robinson resigned her position in the Statistical Unit of the Kansas City Branch Office on November 25 to accept one with General Motors.

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Miss Lois Chamberlain of the Kansas City Branch Office Statistical Unit resigned on December 5. She is to be married the latter part of the month.

MINNEAPOLIS SUPPLEMENT

Local Branch Office Folks

Mix Business with Pleasure

The Employees Association of the Minneapolis Crop Insurance office, elected officers

December 6. Brad McLaughlin was reelected president and Edward J. Hickey vice president. Two new officers elected were Josephine Tuthill, secretary, and Chet Wickstrom, treasurer. They will hold office for 6 months. After the business session the lid was off for bingo, ping-pong, and bridge. A few timid souls insisted on pulling the shades down before the group toyed with luck because the city gendarmes are in the midst of a drive on big-time gambling.

Miss Beatrice Schlager walked off with the big money prize of the night -- 10 of Uncle Sam's biggest and best copper pennies in a little pig bank. The neat little sum will help finance her impending trip home to Spokane, Wash.

Eileen McDonald juggled a cactus plant all the way home, her spoils from the bingo game while Del Zeigler tried unsuccessfully to barter two packages of the kind of cigarettes he doesn't smoke. There was a suspicion that someone framed him, but it always has been hard to pin anything on A. J. Nixon, head of the Statistical Section.

Mae Nesthill found the bingo game the softest touch of all, however. She pocketed a nest of powder puffs. Gerda Sorenson won a mammy doll, that wouldn't say mammy. Well, there were other valuable prizes that ranged as high in value as 25 cents, but the sandwiches and cider that topped the evening erased the memories of other winners and their prizes.

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Men and Women Basketball

Teams Have Players--No Colors

Basketball teams are in the making among Minneapolis employees. The Employees

Association has entered its clubs in the city leagues for men and women. The men's group had its first practice the other night with 16 prospects turning out at the call of Paul Sanwich, chairman of the men's basketball group.

Dolly Carlin is chairman of the women's basketball group. Right now the office is being canvassed for candidates with the opening practice slated for the week of December 12. The playing schedule opens after the holidays.

Funds and the ambition are on tap for a bowling team, but at this point activity has stopped. But with these two important assets ready, organization will be easy.

P. S. About basketball colors. How about a No. 1 amber durum and a No. 2 soft white?

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WASHINGTON SUPPLEMENT

The past week has seen some changes in office space in the South Building. For instance, John Bird and his secretary, Beyle McCammon, have moved to Room 4096, extension 4362 and 4363; F. B. Blair and his secretary, Donna Danielson, Clarence Little, Homer Regnier, and Tom Allington, former state supervisor for Nebraska, have moved to Room 4098, extensions 4843 and 4818.

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Mary Passerini, Secretary to the Assistant Manager, in addition to her everyday responsibilities relative to wheat production, is searching through tomes of legal literature for a kernel of knowledge from which she hopes to produce a thesis required for a master's degree in law.

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John N. Norton was the principal speaker at the Farm Bureau banquet at Preston, Caroline County, Md., on the evening of December 6. Mr. Norton discussed the farm and crop insurance program to 230 farmers, business and professional men.

-- f c i c --

Bob Zeller of the K Street Mail and Files Unit recently spent several days at his home in Terra Alta, W. Va., where a deer hunt netted him one 16-point buck.

-- f c i c --

Don Wilson, of the Administrative Division, underwent an appendectomy in Sibley Hospital on December 6. Don is recovering rapidly.

-- f c i c --

Miss Edna Hendrickson of the Insurance Unit plans to spend the Christmas holidays at her home in Salt Lake City, Utah.

-- f c i c --

Miss Anetta Schmidt of the Personnel Office is leaving soon for an extended Christmas vacation in the Windy City.

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